

Your Tax Refund May Be Delayed This Year:

Important Information for Recipients of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Additional Child Tax Credit (ACTC)

New federal law will delay tax refunds until February 15, 2017 if you receive the Earned Income Tax Credit or the Additional Child Tax Credit.

What You Should Know

- ✓ **File your taxes as you normally would.** You do not need to change the way you file your tax return, including where you get your taxes done. The delay applies to all methods of tax filing (VITA sites, by a commercial tax preparer and self-preparation). For those claiming these tax credits, refunds are unavailable before February 15. There are no exceptions.
- ✓ **Beware of offers of loans against delayed refunds, such as a loan on a refund claim based on a year-end paystub instead of a W-2.** Loan fees are expensive and the return may be inaccurate without all income information. Regardless of these issues, the original loan must still be repaid.
- ✓ **While the IRS will begin issuing EITC and ACTC refunds on February 15, affected taxpayers may not have access to their refunds until the week of February 27 due to processing times.**
- ✓ **Taxpayers not claiming the EITC or ACTC will not be impacted, nor will taxpayers claiming the EITC and ACTC who file after February 15.**
- ✓ **Once you file, you can check the status of your federal tax refund** through the IRS *Where's My Refund?* tool at: www.irs.gov/refunds.

Additional Resources

For more information about these tax credits and to learn about accessing free tax preparation services at a VITA site or through a free online application, please visit montgomerycountymd.gov/cashback. IRS-trained tax preparers can answer your questions and help you file for free. More information about general tax credits is available at IRS.gov.



Are you Eligible?

EITC

The EITC is a tax credit for working people. To be eligible, total income in 2016 must not exceed:

- \$47,955 (\$53,505 married filing jointly) with three or more qualifying children
- \$44,648 (\$50,198 married filing jointly) with two qualifying children
- \$39,296 (\$44,846 married filing jointly) with one qualifying child
- \$14,880 (\$20,430 married filing jointly) with no qualifying children

ACTC

The ACTC is a refundable tax credit available to those who get less than the full amount of the child tax credit. The additional child tax credit may give you a refund even if you do not owe any tax.

To learn more about your eligibility for these tax credits, please contact a free VITA site at montgomerycountymd.gov/cashback or your tax preparer.

Community Action Agency's free Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) partnership joins IRS certified professionals and volunteers to help the low-to-moderate income families to maximize their tax refunds and credits, including EITC (Earned Income Tax Credit). If your family earns less than \$54,000 per year – you can receive FREE tax help and get your 2016 federal and state refunds quickly through "e-filing." You can open a "free" savings account and save with a US Savings Bond too! A Certified Acceptance Agent can assist you in obtaining ITINs.

